

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A device Device for the closure and/or protection of openings in structures, with the device having vertical closure elements (10) in strip form, which that are hingedly connected to one another in a hinge-like manner and in such a way so that they can be turned about vertical longitudinal central axes (14), and with having running carriages (12), which can be made to move that are movable on a horizontal running rail (13) and from which at least some of the closure elements (10) are suspended, the closure elements (10) having an upper side that is suspended from the running rail (13), characterized in that wherein:
 - a) the running carriages (12) have comprise a bearing body (32) made of plastic polyamid, four running wheels (22) made of plastic polypropylene, mounted on two parallel axes, and a sliding bearing (33) made of plastic and with good emergency running properties, an epoxy resin and graphite and that are assigned to each running wheel (22);
 - b) two of the four running wheels (22) are mounted on each of the two axes, with each of the running wheels being connected to the axes by a rotatable bolt (31), the running wheels (22) being fixed on the bolt (31) and the bolt (31) being mounted in the bearing body (32) by two sliding bearings (33);
 - c) the two sliding bearings (33) are located at opposite lateral edge regions of the bearing body (32) so that outer end faces (35) of the sliding bearings (33) are exposed to form stop faces for each of the running wheels (22);
 - d) the sliding bearings (33) are further located in corresponding receptacles (34) of the bearing body (32);
 - e) the running rail (13) has box structure, an underside of which has a continuous longitudinal slot (20) with narrow bottom edge strips (18) being formed on both sides of the longitudinal slot (20);

- f) a lower region of the bearing body (32) of each of the running carriages (12) extends through the longitudinal slot (20) of the running rail (13) and is assigned at least one guiding roller (39) that can rotate freely about a vertical axis and can contact, alternating from side to side, a guiding surface (19) of the running rail (13) delimiting the longitudinal slot (20) on both sides, whereby the bearing body (32) of the respective running carriage (12) is guided in the longitudinal slot (20);
- g) the closure elements (10) further comprising undersides that are guided in a guiding rail (15) defining the lower end of a vertical plane (30) through which the longitudinal central axes (14) of all of the closure elements (10) run, the guiding rail (15) having a U-shaped depression (26) in the vertical plane (30), the U-shaped depression (26) being a guide for the longitudinal central axes (14) of all of the closure elements (10);
- h) the longitudinal central axes (14) further comprise freely rotatable stop rollers (45) that extend upward beyond an upper end (43) and downward beyond a lower end (44) of the closure elements (10), the stop rollers (45) at the upper end (43) of the closure elements (10) being supported on lateral stop faces (23) of the bottom edge strips (18) of the running rail (13), the stop rollers (45) at the lower end (44) of the closure elements (10) being supported on lateral guiding faces (27) of the guiding rail (13);
- i) the guiding roller (39) of each of the running carriages (12) is mounted in a freely rotatable manner on a connecting screw (40) extending in a vertically directed and central orientation through the bearing body (32), with the closure element (10) being respectively fastened by the connecting screw (40) to the running carriage (12) to which the closure element (10) is assigned; and
- j) not every one of the closure elements (10) is fastened to one of the running carriages (12).

2. (cancelled).
 3. (cancelled).
 4. (cancelled).
 5. (cancelled).
 6. (cancelled).
 7. (cancelled).
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8. (currently amended) The device Device according to Claim 5 1, characterized in that wherein the two bottom edge strips (18) of the running rail (13) are respectively provided with at least one guiding means longitudinal groove (42) in a running surface (21) for the running wheels (22), the respective guiding means preferably being formed as a longitudinal groove (42).
 9. (currently amended) The device Device according to Claim 8, characterized in that wherein the running wheels (22) assigned to the different ones of the axes of each of the running carriages (12) lie as close as possible behind one another, preferably to each other in such a way that longitudinal central planes of the running wheels (22) lying one behind the other one another lie in a common, vertical plane, which runs centrally through the respective guiding means, in particular the longitudinal groove (42), in each the running surface (21) of the bottom edge strip (18).
 10. (currently amended) The device Device according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the diameter of the running wheels (22) of equal size have a diameter that is slightly smaller less than the spacing between the parallel axes of the running wheels (22).

11. (currently amended) The device Device according to Claim 4 10, characterized in that wherein the diameter of the running wheels (22) or the spacing between the parallel axes on which the running wheels (22) are arranged is smaller than the spacing between the vertical longitudinal central planes of the running wheels (22) on opposite ends of the respective axis axes, the axial spacing between the opposite running wheels (22) preferably being 0.7 to 0.9 times the diameter of the running wheels (22) or the spacing between the parallel axes.
12. (cancelled).
13. (cancelled).
14. (cancelled).
15. (cancelled).
16. (cancelled).